

The dinner being ready, we went to the dwelling place to eat it, leaving the young fellow that came with us to attend the roast meat, while we eat the first dish.

The old gentleman having laid the cloth which, though something coarse, being made out of part of a ship's sail, was very clean, he laid three shells on it about the bigness of a middle sized plate, but as beautiful as any nakes of pearl I ever saw. Gentlemen, says he, if you can eat off of shells, ye are welcome: I have no better plates to give you. Sir, said I, I very much question whether any prince in *Europe* can produce so curious a service.

The first dish he served was soup in a large deep shell, as fine as the first, and on a spoon made of shell, which he said was all his stock. However, he fetched a couple of muscle shells, which he washed very clean, then gave *Alvarado* one, and took the other himself, obliging me to make use of the spoon. So we sat down, *Alvarado* and I upon the chest, which he drew near the table, and the old gentleman, much against his will upon the chair.

Having eaten sufficiently of the soup, he himself would carry in the remains to the young man in the kitchen, and fetch in the

boiled meat and oyster sauce, which he in another shell, much of the same with that the soup was served in, as delicious as house lamb.

Having done with that, he brought the other half of the beast roasted with several sorts of delicious pickles: This being done with, I offered to take the other half, he in no wise would permit me to do away with it himself, and brought the other of which we eat heartily. This likewise took away, and fetched in his dairy, a small cheese of his own making, which being set down, he related in an unaccountable manner he came to these telopes. But, having not as time for any thing about his own history, he exceedingly longed to enquire of us, and him to inform us by what accident we came hither, and how he had so longed for a good state of health. To answer him, Time would not permit me to relate his own history, being very weary of the remainder of the day too short to do so, would, before we parted, give him a good answer; having for want of other things made a memorial.

The day being pretty far advanced, I was obliged to think of going, which